LEE'S LIXABLE LADS! The Human Torch finally breaks down and burns a flaming path back to his loved one in the land of the Inhumans in Fantastic Four #54. Iron Man finds himself trading metallic fists with the Titanium Man once again in Tales Of Suspense #81. Cap follows right behind as he pits his humann resources against the cosmic cubes of the Red Skull. Tales To Astonish #83 has Sub-Mariner picking up the trail of Krang while General Ross comes face-to-face with the Hulk. Sgt Fury and his Howlers get captured by the enemy in issue #33. But that Submarine skipper shows up just in time to save the day. Thor #131 has the Asgardian Ace finding out the truth about Tana Nile, the female Colonizer and her people. In #132, Thor makes a pact with the Colonizers when he learns of the menace of the Black Galaxy! In Avengers #31, Cap, Wasp, and Hawkeye face the fury of the Keeper of the Flame in order to rescue Goliath. All is well in #32 until the Serpent slithers into sight to wrap his slimy coils about first one and then another of the Avengers. The Lovely Black Widow is back to causes more confusion and heartache for Hawkeye. Fantasy Masterpiece continues its series of Captain America reprints from the fourties. The old Cap and Bucky face the perils of "Ivan The Terrible", the "Fake Money Fiends" and "The Menace of Dr. Grimm!" If that isn't enough for you, there are also three tales of imagination and science fiction to please you also.

FEW FANZINES. April only delivered copies of Rocket's Blast #44 and The Cartoonist #1 to my door. RB has a great piece by Rick Weingroff on the Mighty Crusaders. This is besides all the ads that should help you find one of the books that you are missing. The Cartoonist looks professional enough, but it's contents are rather weak. Ronn Foss has a good strip called the HIGHWAYMAN in this, not to mention a biography. Maybe the next issue will be better and live up to the promises of the ad it has been running for over a year now!

THE ACADEMY COMICON-NEW YORK 1966! On the weekend of August 12, 13, and 14, the Academy will sponsor its annual Comicon. No definite plans for programs or setting at this date but the project is being worked on and will be established soon. For inquires, send a stamped, self-addressed envelope to me--Dave Kaler, Box 392, Cooper Station, New York City 10003. Replies with all the information will probably be in the mail around the first week in July so that all fans can make their plans to attend.

THE BIG NEWS FROM CHARLTON... Four new series bow in the next few months to make each of the main hero books doublefeature comics. Judo-Master #91 has the athletic hero back in the U.S. searching the Japanese detention camps for an enemy agent. In the back of this book, Sgt. Steel turns Double Agent in a tale done by Joe Gill and drawn by Dick Giordano. Captain Atom #83 discovers enough trouble to change his entire life forever in everyway possible. Blue Beetle is back only this time he's an ordinary hero with a fabulous vehicle full of fabulous weapons. This Blue Beetle is the creation of Steve Ditko and he did all the writing and art for it. Thunderbolt #54 features the mental marvel in the Himalayas searching for a rare plant which will save the life of the dying Tabu. Pete finds much more than the plant when he discovers the cave of the Hooded One! Sharing honors in this book will be The Sentinels--a new group made up of two guys and a gal, all swingers from Greenwich Village, who receive strange devices that turn them into fabulous crimefighters! And Gary Fredericks of Missouri dreamed this one up! Fightin' 5 turns into a smaller group when Hank is taken over by a group of five wealthy people who are bored with life. In order to get excitement, they band together to commit crimes for kicks as the Agents of Death. The Peacemaker bows in Fightin' 5 #40. Pat Boyette of Texas created this character who finds that he often has to shed his diplomatic garb and use force and violence to protect the world's peace! And if you are fans of the creepy, scary tales, Mr. L. Dadd has three tales guaranteed to send shivers up your spine. Travel with him to Germany for a guided tour of the Mouse Tower, to Manhattan where computer start giving out The Results From the Unknown and Dr. M. T. Graves will be along to help a dead woman achieve her cold heart's desire!

GOLD KEY ITEMS! Samson #8 has the giant of N'Yark rescuing his people from a perplexing mental urge that turns them into lemmings and lures them to a death of starvation and cold in the icy North. Terra of Jars returns in Samson #9 when she discovers a robot that once stood guard over the U.S. presidents in the late 20th century. Samson battles this metallic menace all over the Washington D.C. landscape. And you can thank Otto Binder for these two tales! Western Publishing has bought the rights to produce a Green Hornet comic book based on the ABC television series. And if all goes well, they will also get permission to do a comic based on Doc Savage and his crew of mental and muscular marvels.

THE HEROIC ARCHIE CHARACTERS. The adventure series using Archie and his gang as super-teens has caught on and Radio will be doing more with them from now on. Pureheart has his own book and his first adventure will pit him against the Octopus. In Betty and Me #3, Super Teen Strikes Again! Even Reggie as Evil Heart gets the Radio royal treatment in Reggie And Me when he brews up a Pit of Peril. All I know about the Mighty Crusaders #6 is that the crew faces their Blackest Day

JOE SIMON AND HARVEY! This company is busy with many interesting characters and stories at this time. But they still haven't decided which of their new creations to use. It's almost certain that there will be a new Fighting American series, perhaps bowed in with a special 25¢ edition as the first book. The Three Rocketeers are also likely to be brought back in a book of their own. As for new characters, there is a variety of every type and power to please every taste. And you will probably see them on the stands before I get any information. This company really keeps things under close wraps.

THE DEMONS FROM DELL! Frankenstein #2 has the monster super-being being taken over by an IBM computer that leaves himpowerless. The first Dracula super-being tale bows in August. And if the sales on Nukls do not pick up, this character will be dropped as happened before to Brain Boy.

BINDER'S BEST. Mystery In Space turns into a Binder book when Otto Binder pounds out an Ultra tale and another thriller to fill out the book. The Pied Piper of Pluto lure earth people into his empty dimensional "earth" so he can have people to rule. ut Ultra plays another tune with his fists and wits to end his zany scheme. "The Riddle of the Booby-Trapped Asteroid" faces the crew and passengers of a wrecked rocketliner when they land on an asteroid filled with danger. In Strange Adventures #192, a pilot finds that his vocal cords have been turned into dangerous weapons when they are used to release alien horrors from another dimension. Besides "The Man with the Voice of Doom!" this book features "The Living Scarecrows" and "Freak Island". In Action #341, Otto whipped up a Superman tale in which a Super Clark Kent exists alongside Superman. The real Superman almost winds up in the Phantom Zone before this tale is over. For Creepy fans, Otto is continuing his adaption of his great Adam Link, Robot Detective series. In the sixth episode, Adam disguises himself as a human in order to seve Eve from being punished for a series of gangland killings.

ACTION AND LAUGHS FROM ACG. Forbidden Worlds #139 has Magicman daring the "D-Dimension". Special feature of this issue is a reprint from the fifties about "The Thing With the Golden Hair!" Nemesis discovers a planet where Hell is a place that good people go to in Adventures Into The Unknown #168. Companion feature is the tale of a cane which is a ghost. Unknown Worlds leaves John Force waiting until #52 to reappear in its pages. The Magic Agent will appear every other issue from now on. But don't miss "Dilligan Likes Pets!" which is filled with thrills and chills. But if you prefer laughter,

then Herbie #21 has the Plump Lump giving out with a "Yeah, Team!" If that isn't enough for you, then Herbie will show you a "Viking to Your Liking!"

NEWS FROM NATIONAL. DC turns the tables on us by having three of its action heroes play roles totally opposite their actual characters. You'll see Flash become The Vandal of Central City" in his own book (#164). The Element Man, Metamorpho, becomes Public Enemy in the eighth issue of his own book. And in issue #29 of Aquaman, the Sea King becomes the Coward King of the Sea! Superman can be found helping Lois Lane get in and out of woes in the pages of the Lois Lane Giant #68. The tales all concern Lois' romances with a soldier, a rajah, and even one with the meek Clark Kent. Jimmy Olsen #96 finds the news sleuth saving a distant planet from destruction. Krypto and his space pals pups are featured in Superboy #132. And another full length story of the Legionnaires fills the pages of Adventure #348 when the group faces Dr. Regulus, a master of sun power. Batman Finds his life literally hanging by a thread when he faces the Hooded Hangman in Detective #355.And when Batman and Robin fail to answer the Hot-Line or even report to headquarters when the Bat Signal appears, all Gotham City goes on a search to locate "The Missing Manhunter!" The Unlucky Stars of Batman and Superman forecast their doom when Dr. Zodiac plots against the pair in World's Finest #160. For those who love the thrill of war, Sgt. Rock battles the original Hitler to save the lives of an Enemy teen-age Army in issue #171 of Our Army At War. Captain Storm is saved by a wodden armed Japanese one minute and nearly killed by him the next minute in "My Enemy, My Friend" the feature tale in issue #15. "Even the Skies Can Bleed" when two Indians fromthe same tribe are on different sides of the war and meet in the clouds to settle a grudge in All American Men Of War #117.The terrific teams have their hands full that month also. The Doom Patrol find two of their old villains teaming up as The Blood Brothers. And the blood that they're after belongs to the fabulous freaks in issue #106. The Sea Devils find their own element working against them in issue #31 of their magazine. Water holds only death on The Day the Seas Went Wild!! Robin finds himself battling it out solo with the latestcreep to combat the Teen Titans in #5. This character calls himself The Ant and the Teen Titans are out to step on his criminal plots. Showcase #54 has Murphy Anderson wielding some wild inks to show us the latest Gardner Fox tale about the spectacular spook, the Spectre. Another ghost tries to take over the body of Jim Corrrigan and the Spectre battles it out with him. The Blackhawk Wreckers are out to get the Seven Aces of the Air and destroy them in issue #224. Tomahawk #106 features the beginning of a new series on the Origin Of The Rangers. Then they all get together to fight the Battling Ghost of Tomahawk! And in House of Secrets #80. Eclipso becomess two menaces again when a Giant Eclipso shows up to cause more trouble for Bruce Gordan. And Ra-Man, Mind Master, brews up some mystical incanations in order to prevent "The Death of the Six-Sided Sun!" Rumor has it that House of Secrets will die soon and that the two characters now featured in it will disappear into LIMBO.

COMICS IN THE MAGAZINE WORLD. Newsweek for April 25, 1966 featured a special article on where the original actors who portrayed Batman and Superman are today. And they also did a writeup on the world of POP and the modern culture. POST for May 7, 1966 analyzed the Batman craze in a five page article. Science and Mechanics for June tested The Batmobile in a very tongue-in-cheek fashion to please many readers. Drag Cartoons has been featuring a cartoon take-off on the Dynamic Duo in a strip called BATTMAN. This began in the April issue and has been continuing since. And Toys and Novelties, a trade magazine, featured a Murphy Anderson cover of the Dynamic Duo to announce a special 20 page section on the Batman craze and the companies that are licensed to produce Batman products.

LEO THE LION AND BATMAN! The MGM people are interested in several comic and radio heroes to use on their record albums. The first of this series I mentioned in a previous column. They would like to do a second Batman album featuring the Catwoman and another villain. They are also seeking to do a Green Hornet album to do this Fall to tie in with the TV series. They also wanted information on Captain Marvel and thought that a record about the Big Red Cheese might sell well with the nostalgia crowd.

NEWSPAPER CARTOONISTS--AWARDS AND MORE AWARDS. On the night of April 26th, the National Cartoonists Society met to present the annual Rueben Awards for 1965. Leonard Starr, once artist for Planet Comics, won this years award for his "ON STAGE." Other notables known to comic Fandom who received awards were: Wally Wood for his freelance work in comicbooks; Jerry Robinson for his special feature articles, "Flubs and Fluffs"; Gus Arriola for his humor strip, "Gordo"; Roy Crane for "Buzz Sawyer; and Jim Berry for "Berry's World". The Swedish Academy of Comic Strips named Chester Gould the best serial cartoonist of 1965. The strip was cited for its outstnding originality in characters and plot. Walt Kelly was honored by the U.S. Department of Labor with an AWARD OF MERIT, the highest award bestowed to a citizen. It was given for Kelly's work on a special booklet featuring "POGO" characters that was used to promote the Neighborhood Youth Corps. The National Air Force Association named Milton Caniff the"Man of the Year" in Dallas, Texas. And Irving Phillips, the creator of Mr. Mum has been made an honorary bartender of the Long Branch Saloon in Dodge City, Kansas.

FANTASTIC! THE FRENCH FILM FANTASY! In the past month, two films have been released in the U.S. that may be of interest to the comic fans. They may never get released in other areas of

the country but perhaps in a few years, they will be dubbed and released for home television. FANTOMAS is a super crook who keeps the police force of France working overtime. While not quite as lavish as the recent spy movies, this film provides some excellent stuntwork done by the French Douglas Fairbanks, Jean Marais. Marais making a comeback in films handles two roles in the film and does all of his own stuntwork for the film. Marais is a Paris newspaper man who takes an interview with FANTOMAS that incurs the anger of the super crook. The newspaperman is kidnapped and brought to the hide out of Fantomas. There he learns a great deal about this criminal as in his certainty, the crook reveals his plans to the newsman. Using a fantastic artivicial skin of his own creation, Fantomas is able to become the living duplicate of any person he wishes to be. He then proceeds to disguise him self as the reporter and commit a jewel robbery to end all jewel robberies. He succeeds and leads the police on a fantastic chase over the roofs of Paris until he escapes in a helicopter sent for him. Fantomas then proceeds to take the place of the Chief Prefect of the Paris Police Force and commits robery after robbery. Even the Prefect begins to doubt his own sanity and winds up in jail as being the alter-ego of Fantomas. But the newspaperman has escaped from the hiding place of the villain by use of a clever ruse. There follows much mad driving and excitement on the roads of France as the police and the newspaperman chase the super villain all over the country. Even in the end when Fantomas escapes, there is a clue that there may be a follow up to this film. It should be fun to see if it ever materializes. The other film was a remaking of an ancient French serial called Judex. Judex is a French version of Batman in that the character goes about in a black cape, achieves fantastic disguises and makes his headquarters in a dark lonely vault. Our hero hopes to gain revenge on a rich banker who has cheated him and others. This banker also has a scheming servant on his staff-a lovely miss who tries to relieve our banker of some of his ill-gotten fortune. But the movie is inconstant and never follows any one particular train of thought and action long enough. It shifts too quickly from action and mystery to comedy which just isn't funny. This should provide some interesting viewing for those interested in a foreign costume hero and who he may be like. But if you are looking for Batman or secret agent action, stay at home and watch those characters on TV.

MORE ON THE GREEN BERETS. The Armed Forces requested that the Chicago Tribune-New York News Syndicate supply free distribution of the "Green Beret" strip to servicemen stationed in isolated bases and on ships at sea and they did it. Howard Liss has been made script advisor of the Green Beret strip.He will supply Joe Kubert with material authenticizing weaponry and techniques employed by Special Services. He will also work with Mr. Moore on the continuity and dialogue in the strip. Liss presently is script supervisor on the Jim Casey strip and writes all of the present Buck Rogers strip.

CARTOONISTS AUCTION. Starting on May 2, 200 signed originals by America's cartoonists went on exhibit at the World Press Center in New York City. On May 5 and 6, the drawings were auctioned off to benefit the educational activities of Newspaper Women's Club of New York and the National Cartoonist Society.

THE PAPERBACK BOOKS OF COMICS. Altogether there are now five major books devoted to comic book heroes on the shelves of your local book shop. If the sales of these are good,you can look forward to seeing many more coming out soon. Belmont was the first company to hit the stands with a book devoted to the adventures of Super-Heroes. They aimed the book directly at the High Camp crowd by calling it High Camp Super Heroes. The work inside it is not the best but at least it has the advantage of being the only book with original material in the form of a Steel Sterling strip. And for this reason alonels the book worth having. Lancer contracted with Marvel to reprint tales from the Fantastic Four and Spider-Man. The two books are aimed at college students and should do very well in college and campus shops. Since many members of Fandom already have the comics from which these strips were taken, their value in a collection is nil except as an oddity. It tells you nothing new about the characters and offers no new material. Signet released the first book of Batman reprints only a few weeks ago. The book itself is good and offers at least the first two pages of BATMAN #1 on which his origin is retold. Material after that is all from the fifties and will probably please the younger fans who don't have these books in their collection. The only bad point about this book is the back page which is downright misleading. How early can Batman possibly be if they appeared some 12 years after the first strip appeared in Detective Comics in 1939. And the VERY BEST label given this book by the editors only applies to their opinion, I'm sure. All fans know that there have been and will continue to be many better stories featuringthe Caped Crusader and the Boy Wonder. Signet's pocket novel of Batman suffers from one thing only--they picked a man who did not know the character he was writing about in the first place. It takes 87 pages to go by before Winston Lyon knows his characters and breathes any life into them. His attempts to turn Batman into a Doc Savage mental wizard were very poor. His handling of Batman when he sees Robin fall to his doomwas the worst ever. Batman would never have become morose and not care about what happened to himself. His original aim in life was to avenge the murder of his parents. Then how could the author turn him into a man who loses all hope and gives in to despair. Once Lyon reaches page 87, Batman and Robin become the living legends that we know them to be. Even that lovely lady of larceny, the Catwoman, breathes softly, turning clawed talons in a truely realistic manner. If there is a secuel, let's hope the publishers give the book to someonewho has been writing the character for years and knows what to do with him. Or else they make sure that Mr. Lyons reads up on the characters he will be handling.

ON THE DRAWING BOARD, the official newsletter of the Academy Of Comic Book Fans And Collectors, is published monthly by the Date-Way Comic Book Fan Club, 9516 Minerva, St. Louis, Missouri 63114.

Well, this is the last issue of OTDB that will be solely my effort. However, I have great hopes for its future under the very capable handling of the Gateway Club. I will still be Executive Editor along with Robert Schoenfeldt as president of the Club. There won't be any major changes in OTDB in the future except for one. In recent months, TCR has drifted more and more away from the Academy and instead of being a publication OF the Academy became just another fanzine that happened to be endorsed by it. However, we want to see this trend reversed. This can and willbe accomplished as quickly as possible. As the future, the only items to appear in OTDB will be news of pro, fan, and Academy worlds. By doing this, it will be emphasized that the news is being brought to you readers as a service of the Academy and not one or two individual fans. This latter impression is the one gained by anyone who would happen to read any of the last few of TCR. The news IS a service of the Academy and not of any one else. Secondly, OTDB will act as the regular place for distribution of all information concerning the activities of the Academy. This will be done by the reinstatement of the Academy News column in the very near future. Dave Kaler will makes full use of OTDB to keep every member of Fandom fully informed about the Academy. Our aim is to keep OTDB as closely tied to the Academy as possible and with the Club, Dave, and myself working as closely together as possible, it will be possible to accomplish this.

So finally here are the complete details. OTDB will be published on a strict monthly schedule by photo-offset whenever it is possible. When not, it will be published by a photo-ditto process. But the prime thing is the monthly schedule. The price is as follows with Academy member price first and non-member price second : Per single issue--$ .10 and $ .15; per quarter--$ .20 and $ .35; per half year--$ .40 and $ .65; per year--$ .75 and $1.25. These prices are purposely set to encourage subscriptions for an entire year which will be more convenient for all concerned. There will be no profit for anyone involved and the prices are as low as are practical. All orders are to be sent to Bob Schoenfeldat the address listed above. Please make all checks and money ordersout to only him. Do NOT ever make them out to the Club as we could never cash them. Make them out to ONLY Bob. Please remember that OTDB will not carry advertisement so there is no need in asking as you will just be refused.

The Gateway Club is really developing into one of the leading groups around. In addition to publishing OTDB, we will be issuing two article fanzines--TCR and GOSH WOW. More information on the latter will be issued later. However, we do want to encourage all of you who possibly can to make it to St. Louis for the convention to be held this summer. Ted White will definitely be there plus possibly two other great pros. We will let you know for sure as soon as we find out. The convention will be held at the Downtown Motor Inn on July 29 and 30. This will not interfere with the New York Comicon to be held at a later date. If you would be interested in attending, just send a long s.a.s. to Bob and full information will be sent to you. Also get the next issues of OTDB for complete details. There will be a $2 registration fee if you will definitely be attending.

TCR will still be solely my effort despite the fact that I consider it a Club effort since I am a member of the Club. So, all orders for TCR are still to come to me or Jim here at Rolla. There may be a discount of TCR #49 for Academy members.

Larry Herndon has asked me to inform all my readers that he has gotten off schedule with BATWING due to an illness in his family. So if it doesn't arrive when it was supposed to don't worry about it. You will get your copy as soon as possible. However, the next issue of SSC will still be out on schedule.

I just got a long letter from Roy Thomas about AE. He will most definitely continue to publish it but only about two times a year. AE #10 will be in the mails very shortly.

SUPER ADVENTURES

Last issue the masked menace managed to kill Gladiator, one member of the LAW LEGION. This issue five heroes battle for their lives in a 41 page action-packed story. Will another hero meet his doom? To find out, get SUPER ADVENTURES #4, on sale now. Art by Dave Herring, Steve Sabo and others.
This giant 56 page issue features the best fandom has to offer. Part three of a continuing editorial on Fandom explores the ALLEY awards and other aspects of the Academy. Also, a three page letter column on the editorial which set off sparks in fandom. This controversial piece is a MUST for all of you interested in fandom. Issue four also features an interview with Sam Schwartz, editor of TOWER COMICS. Mike Ring, and other regular and surprise features complete this issue. While we can praise ourselves to no end, we'd rather let our readers do it, so..: "My first encounter with Super Adventures was with SA#3 and believe me, it won't be my last. I was very impressed with the overall quality of SA. The writing, art and reproduction were, for the most part, very good." "But the item of true thought appeal was the editorial. I believe, and I'm sure not alone that you hit the nail on the old head. I'm sure this will become a hot little discussion and I applaud you for having the guts to print it."

These were two comments from our readers about SA#3, and issue #4 is superior. As for quality, SA received a '4' rating in the fanzine index in TCR#45 . This was based on a '5' scale. To order SA, mail 25¢+5¢ for postage to: MARVIN WOLFMAN, 142-18 59 Ave. Flushing, N.Y. 11355. ALL COPIES MAILED FLAT!!

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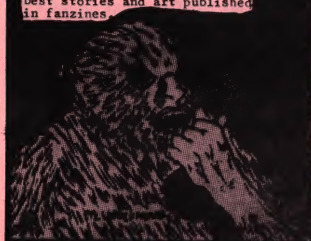
STORIES of Suspense

If you are a horror, science-fiction, or a suspense fan, you'll enjoy STORIES OF SUSPENSE, "The Panzine That Dares To Be Different". Issue #2, on sale now, features 3 illustrated strips and a 12 page text story. This 36 page issue features some of the best stories and art published in fanzines.



Stories and art by some of the top names in fandom; Dave Herring, Jeff Gelb, Steve Sabo and others.
But why brag? For quality pays off, as these letters show: "Technically I would rate SOS as high as any zine I have seen. You and the people associated with you have done things with the medium you are working with that I never realized was possible. And the layout-imaginative but not 'forced' or contrived conjures up very agreeable associations with the professionalism and atmosphere of pre-code horror comics."-Landon Chesney. "This zine is quite different from any others in that it consists entirely of horror tales both illustrated and text. The excellent cover clearly set the atmosphere for the stories inside." (From the 'Ego Crusher' by Jim King in TCR#44). SOS received a 'B' rating, the same rating that Rocket's Blast, Batmania, and other top zines received in TCR#44. So, for the tops in both story and art,in the horror-S.F. format, be sure to get SOS. Only 20¢+5¢ for postage to:MARVIN WOLFMAN·142-18 59 Ave. Flushing, N.Y. 11355. COPIES OF NUMBER ONE ARE AVAILABLE FOR THE SAME PRICE. ALL COPIES MAILED FLAT.

If you order both SA# 4, and SOS# 2, mail only 50¢ and save 5¢.
If you order SA, SOS# 1&2, mail only 75¢ and also save a nickle.

ACADEMY NEWS

BY

DERRILL ROTHERMICH

Dave Kaler will do this column in future issues of OTDB but until his election is official and he can really get started on his new job, I have decided to initiate this column again with the letters that I have been receiving which are about Academy matters and to give me a chance to put forward changes that I feel are necessary if the Academy is to be the success it could and should be. The letter below by George Martin will be the basis of my comments. I have been in direct dontact with several of the Board members about my suggestions and more letters about them will appear next month. I feel that since this is of great interest to all members of the Academy, it should be made public. I encourage letters of comment from all my readers--especially members of the Executive Board. The Academy has to be gotten back on its feet and I feel that this is a start. I just hope that Dave can take over the responsibility for this column as soon as possible.

George R. R. Martin
35 East First Street
Bayonne, New Jersey

Received TCR #47 a few days ago to my relief since I had been a bit worried over its uncustomary lateness. A good, interesting issue overall but there are a few points I would like to discuss.

First of all, there's this change in the TCR format. To be quite truthful, I don't approve at all. TCR is,and should remain, "the Official newsletter of the Academy of Comic Book Fan and Collectors". As such it is the soul, backbone, and chief gathering place of all of comic fandom and therefore must remain on a monthly schedule. Fandom NEEDS a zine like TCR is at present; unless the Academy founds another, the change will leave a gaping hole.

I have no objection to your publishing another quality article zine like AE--but not at the expense of TCR. Why have two AEs and no TCR? Furthermore, as provided for in the Academy Charter, "the Executive Board shall have full jurisdiction over publication of THE COMIC READER". Therefore, before any more steps are taken in regard to this proposed change, I think the matter should be discussed publicly in the lettercol, and a vote of the Executive Board taken.

On the matter of the election of a new Executive Secretary, I too would agree that Dave Kaler would be a fine choice. What the Academy principally needs right now is organization. Of late, it has been only one big shambles. Kaler, as shown in his handling of the New York Comicon, is a superb organiser. I, therefore, feel that he is just the man needed to put the Academy back on its feet and as an Executive Board member will wholeheartedly cast my vote for him.

As a Executive Board member, I would like to make a few proposals in public, in the pages of TCR, for consideration by the Board and by the Supporting membership. First of all, I urge the establishment of a new post of "Assistant Secretary" who would take over the duties of Executive Secretary if the latter resigned or neglected his office. This, I feel, would avoid a repitition of the confusion of the last few months should the Gambaccini incident be repeated. Secondly, since FORUM has to my knowledge been defunct for some time, I would like to propose using the pages of TCR in its stead (this is assuming TCR retains its present format) I have always felt the arguments, deliberations, and the elections of the Executive Board should be carried on in public, in a zine available to all rather than in a limited-distribution job as FORUM that only Board members would receive. The Supporting members of the Academy, in my opinion, DESERVE to know what their representatives are doing.

These are matters, in my opinion, of vital concern to the welfare of Fandom as a whole and as such I would like to ask you to either print this letter or forward it to Mr. Kaler so that the proposals I have made will receive due consideration by the Academy.

This is what George had to say about the situation. I have answered him directly in great detail but want to make the main ideas public on these pages for two reasons. First, I want everyone to know exactly where I stand and secondly, to put forward the changes I feel are necessary.

First is the matter of the plit between TCR and OTDB. I have already touched upon this to a slight degree in my editorial on the page preceeding this one. I have no desire to go against the wishes of the Board as to what I did with TCR. I will do what the Board wishes but I will fight for its approval of the moves I have already made because I fully believe that they are for the best for all concerned. When I received TCR, I was given the impression that I was free to make changes if I desired unless a formal vote of the Board vetoed it. Well, a change had to be made as soon as possible and the Board and Academy was in no position to consider my changes. So with the agreement of the new Secretary I made the change. I think that if the Board will withhold judgement until they can see what the final outcome will be, they will see that I made the right decision. Sure, Fandom needs a monthly publication to serve as a meeting place for all of Fandom. And it has it in OTDB. OTDB will serve the purposes that the Academy had in mind when it delared TCR its official newsletter. The Academy wanted just that--a NEWSLETTER. Not a large zine as TCR has become. This has happened slowly over the years but it has just now become unbearable. The official Academy publication should feature just the Academy business and items such as the pro news that is a feature of the Academy. Also, it should include a lettercolumn where the fans can debate issues and set forth their opinions on just about anything of interest. But this is all that the zine should carry and this is all OTDB will carry. It will be a place where all Fandom can gather to make decisions and carry out the results of these decisions--not a place for assorted articles and columns that have no place in an Academy publication.

So much for the news letter itself. Now comes the most important ideas. There is a definite reason for what happened to the Academy in recent months and if the Academy is to ever ammount to anything, this situation has to be remedied immediately. George mentioned it in passing in his letter but didn't go intothe detail necessary to fully explain it. The roots are deep and go back to the origin of the Academy. The Executive Board is a great idea as a legislative body--but that is all. The founding fathers of this country realized that the federal government would never get anything accomplished without an executive branch so they incorporated one in the Constitution. The same situation is present in the Academy as now set up. There is only the legislative body with any real work to be accomplished and that is left on the shoulders of the Executive Secretary. This isn't really the fault of anyone but just one of those inevitable things. The members of the Board are spread out over the whole country (and the whole world,actually) and no group of them can possibly get together regularly to work on anything the Academy might want to do. So the Executive Secretary has to do it. This leads him down to the breaking point and that is precisely what happened. Paul was so loaded down with duties that he just couldn't hold up and neither could anybody else if you want to be honest with yourselves. Paul was trying to oversee the whole Academy while taking care of the money, sending out the coupons, publishing WHO'S WHO, handling the Alley ballots, and who knows what else. This is proof enough that anybody busy on a full time basis and the Academy doesn't pay a Secretary to devote all his life to doing its work so why should it be surprised when one just drops to the ground exhausted. The Executive Secretary--nor any other single individual--should NEVER be loaded down with such a fantastic ammount of work. Administrative duties such as the printing of WHO'S WHO, the handling of the Alley ballots, etc. should be handled by a close-knit group. A group could handle them much faster and far better than one overloaded individual could ever hope to do. The Secretary should concentrate on directing the Academy and working on ways to increase its size and enabling it to do more for Fandom. He should coordinate activities--not have to do them all himself. George suggested one step that could be taken to help relieve this situation. However, there are twomore that can and should be taken. First, the Board just has to realize its limitations. This is something it appears reluctant to do both of pure importance. Anyone who wants to try to keep up the appearance that the Board can do it all is fooling nobody and hurting all of Fandom. As a body to make final decisions, it is a great idea but it just can't accomplish anything definite as long as it is so spread out and loosely organized. Surely past experiences have proved this to be the case. I say that such administrative duties should be handed to a close-knit group that is fully capable of handling them. This group would be under the direct control of the Executive Secretary and his assistant. Indirectly, it would be controlled by the Board through the Secretary. All final decisions would be up to the Board. I have a definite group in mind and that is the Gateway Comic Book Fan Club of St. Louis, Missouri. This group can call together almost two dozen members at a moments notice to work on anything. They are all dedicated comic fans and fully capable of handling anything that might be asked of them. I have turned OTDB over to them for just the reason that I have been trying to make plain--a group can better see to it that OTDB retains a strick monthly schedule. And such a group can better handle WHO'S WHO, etc. than a single individual. They have offered their services and I feel that theAcademy should and MUST take advantage of their willingness to help if it is to ever remove this continual threat of death through overwork of one individual. And this spectre will continue to haunt the Academy unless something is done about it and what better time than when the Academy is is a process of rebuilding.

George has raised another valid point. FORUM was a bad idea

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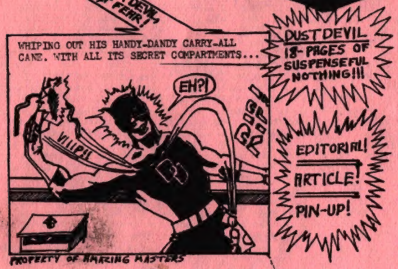

We are not going to tell you this FANZINE is the best, because we know it is not A-E and YSJ and others are by a long shot better. We will tell you that it's a 24-page fansine. (About TCR size.) It contains an 18-page satire: "DUSTDEVIL", a short 2-page article on DAREDEVIL, and a pin-up of SPIDEY and DD together. It is all purple and white except for the cover which is in several colors. We do not think you'll be disappointed. People in the following states and above send your orders* to: Mike Redman, RR #2, Box 172-A, Plainfield, Imidana 46168. All other states send your orders to: Steve Fritz, 2822 McCleve Drive, Doraville, Georgia 30040. The material is ready to be put on the masters, but until we get 50 orders we will be unable to do so. So send those orders as soon as possible!!! *25¢-folded third class; 30¢-folded, 1st class or flat, third (state choice); 35¢ flat first class.

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ACADEMY NEWS

(Continued from last page) because it didn't allow the general membership to know just what the Academy Board was considering. Such debates as was carried on in FORUM should be carried on in OTDB so that the general membership might make its ideas also known. After all, the Board is to represent the general membership so shouldn't it be interested in what they might think of a particularquestion? I am not suggesting that the Board forfiet its right of decision on any matters but that it listen to what the membership might say on any particular question. The Board isn't supposed to be a private little club but that is the way it has acted in the past. I think it is time for a much needed change. OTDB would be a perfect place for exchanges of views as I am doing now. There is plenty of room in OTDB for such discussions.

Richard Kyle has tried for reform in the Academy before along these same lines but was unsuccessful. His arguments weren't even printed in FORUM as they should have been. I was deeply disturbed to hear this. It again points up to the fact that too many Board members have their heads stuck in the sand and don't wantto come up for the look that is sorely needed. Surely what has happened has shown that Rick knew what he was talking about. Wake Up--Academy Board members! Wake up for the sake of all of Fandom. I won't give up as Rick apparently did. If I have to light a fire under each and every Board member to make him see that the changes I suggested are needed, that is precisely what I intend to do. You can bet your last dollar that I mean exactly what I say. I think too much of Fandom to see the Academy destroy itself as it has and is doing. If you think you have heard the last from me you are about as wrong as you possibly can be. Just tune in again next issue.

Derrill